

Security Quickie 6-13-02: Perspectives

Sometimes it's a good idea to put things in perspective and use examples of incidents from other parts of our nation to illustrate common security concerns. Unfortunately, this isn't one of those instances. The picture below wasn't taken in Chicago, or New York, or even Los Angeles, it was taken here in Des Moines, outside of a building that State of Iowa employees work in. This was one of approximately seven bullet holes that were discovered. Thankfully, the incident occurred on a weekend and no one was injured.



You see, things that happen to 'Other Places' also can, and do, happen here. It really *is* important to be aware of what goes on around us in the workplace. Hacking attempts, theft, social engineering attempts, and other security-related incidents can happen here as readily as in other places. Do you know what to do if you see suspicious activities? Do you know how to securely deal with access doors, keys, and guests? Remember the following guidelines when dealing with physical security:

- Report suspicious activity to your supervisor, Post 16 (Capitol Police) or others, depending on the severity of the event.
- Make sure secure doors stay secured; keep them shut, or if they need to be opened make sure they are monitored.
- Do not allow unknown employees access through secured doors. If they supposedly have an access code, let them use it.
- Do not leave non-employees alone in sensitive areas; always make sure they are escorted.
- Don't tag office keys with readily identifiable labels.